

SECRET/CONTROL - US OFFICIALS ONLY

Austria

SOVIET POLICY TOWARD AUSTRIA

"1. The Soviet policy in Austria is determined directly by Moscow, and has been modified several times, without, in many cases, taking account of the actual situation in the country.

"2. The USSR was very much disappointed with the results of the various elections, which did not give the Communist Party as much power as had been counted on.

"3. The Soviet High Commission was divided on the policy to be followed in Austria. An economic group headed by General Sheltoy and the leading USIA men favored withdrawing the troops. A political-military group headed by General Sviridov advocated the continued presence of the Soviets in Austria for both strategic and economic reasons, as follows:

- a. The insecurity of the People's Democracies
- b. The neutralization of Austria as a result of maintaining the status quo
- c. The prevention of the absolute isolation of the Eastern countries, because the Eastern countries would be the losers if the Iron Curtain were completely closed.

Sviridov's view won out, and he succeeded in having Sheltoy recalled to Moscow.

"4. Since the attempted Communist putsch, The Russians have been afraid of giving open support to the Communist Party lest they cause the Western Allies to decide to partition Austria. The partial support given was designed primarily to undermine the authority of the government and prove its vulnerability.

"5. The anti-Communist declaration of the Austrian government, which was also supported by the people, forced the USSR to modify its policy in Austria. For the time being, it has decided not to leave Austria and not to ratify a peace treaty."

RETAIN OR DESTROY

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